Message Text

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: TEXT OF DRAFT DECLARATION ADOPTED BY UNESCO MEETING ON MASS MEDIA PRINCIPLES.

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SUBJECT DRAFT DECLARATION ADOPTED DECEMBER 22 (SEE SEPTELS) AS TAKEN FROM ROUGH SECRETARIAT COPY. PERMDEL WILL ADVISE OF ANY CHANGES IN CLEAN FINAL COPY EXPECTED TO BE DISTRIBUTED SOMETIME DURING WEEK BEGINNING DECEMBER 29:

QUOTE: DRAFT DECLARATION ON FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE USE OF MASS MEDIA IN STRENGTHENING PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND IN COMBATING WAR PROPAGANDA, RACISM AND APARTHEID

PREAMBLE

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION MEETING IN NAIROBI AT ITS NINETEENTH SESSION IN 1976.

1. RECALLING THAT BY ITS CONSTITUTION UNESCO IS CHARGED UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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WITH CONTRIBUTING TO PEACE AND SECURITY BY PROMOTING COLLABORATION AMONG THE NATIONS THROUGH EDUCATION, SCIENCE

AND CULTURE, AND THAT, TO REALIZE THIS PURPOSE, THE ORGANIZATION WILL COLLABORATE IN THE WORK OF ADVANCING THE MUTUAL KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF PEOPLES THROUGH ALL MEANS OF MASS COMMUNICATION AND TO THAT END RECOMMEND SUCH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO PROMOTE THE FREER AND WIDER EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BY WORD AND IMAGE ON BOTH A MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL BASIS, THE SOVEREIGNTY OF STATES BEING FULLY RESPECTED,

- 2. RECALLING THE PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AS SPECIFIED IN THE CHARTER, AS WELL AS OTHER DOCUMENTS OF THE ORGANIZATION,
- 3. RECALLING THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN 1948, AND THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN 1966,
- 4. RECALLING RESOLUTION 110 (II) OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS ADOPTED IN 1974 CONDEMNING ALL FORMS OF PROPAGANDA WHICH ARE DESIGNED OR LIKELY TO PROVOKE OR ENCOURAGE ANY THREAT TO THE PEACE, BREACH OF THE PEACE, OR ACT OF AGGRESSION AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF APARTHEID ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN 1973,
- 5. RECALLING ALL THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND MORE PARTICULARLY RESOLUTIONS 1904, 3151 AND 3379 ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIALISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION.
- 6. RECALLING THE DECLARATION AND THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (RESOLUTIONS 3201 (S-VI) AND 3202 (S-VI) OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY), AND THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES (RESOLUTION 3281 (XXIX) OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY), AS REGARDS A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, THROUGH WHICH IT IS HOPED TO CREATE A NEW SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS BASED UPON EQUITY, UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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SOVEREIGN EQUALITY, COMMON INTEREST AND CO-OPERATION AMONG ALL STATES, WHICH MAY HELP TO STRENGTHEN DECISIVELY PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING,

- 7. RECALLING RESOLUTION 9.12 ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT ITS FIFTEENTH SESSION REITERATING UNESCO'S OBJECTIVE TO HELP TO ERADICATE COLONIALISM AND RACIALISM,
- 8. TAKING ACCOUNT OF ARTICLE 4 OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION,

WHEREBY STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION DONDEMN ALL PROPAGANDA AND ALL ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ARE BASED ON IDEAS OR THEORIES OF SUPERIORITY OF ONE RACE OR GROUP OF PERSONS OF ONE COLOUR OR ETHNIC ORIGIN, OR WHICH ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY OR PROMOTE RACIAL HATRED AND DISCRIMINATION IN ANY FORM AND UNDERTAKE TO ADOPT IMMEDIATE AND POSITIVE MEASURES DESIGNED TO ERADICATE ALL INCITEMENT TO, OR ACTS OF, SUCH DISCRIMINATION,

- 9. BEARING IN MIND THE DECLARATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION, ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO AT ITS FOURTEENTH SESSION.
- 10. NOTING WITH SATISFACTION THE POSITIVE RESULTS ACHIEVED IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL DETENTE AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE CONTRIBUTION TO THIS PROCESS MADE BY THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE, (MORE)

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11. CONSIDERING THAT THE MASS MEDIA ARE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE AND HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CREATING AN ATMOSPHERE OF INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENCE AND MUTUAL RESPECT IN CONFORMITY WITH THE OBLIGATION TO ABSTAIN FROM INCITEMENT TO AGGRESSIVE WARS OR ANY USE OR THREAT OF FORCE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE AIMS OF THE UNITED NATIONS, IN THE INTERESTS OF STRENGTHENING PEACE AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PEOPLES AND CONTRIBUTING TO INTERNATIONAL DETENTE AND THE SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT OF THE HUMAN PERSONALITY WITHOUT DISTINCTION AS TO RACE, SEX, LANGUAGE OR RELIGION,

- 12. CONSIDERING THAT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, INFORMATION AND OPINION ARE FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND THAT THE FREE INTERCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND OPINIONS, BOTH IN THE NATIONAL AND IN THE INTERNATIONAL SPHERES, IS ESSENTIAL TO THE CAUSE OF PEACE AND ACHIEVEMENT OF POLITICAL, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS,
- 13. CONSIDERING THE IMPORTANCE OF UTILIZING ALL MEANS OF MASS COMMUNICATION FOR THE SUPPORT AND REINFORCEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN STATES, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR POLITICAL, ECONOMIC OR SOCIAL SYSTEMS, IN THE SPIRIT OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS.
- 14. CONSIDERING ALSO THAT THE INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION PLACES SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES ON PERSONS AND UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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INSTITUTIONS

WHO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION AS WELL AS ON THEIR PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO STRIVE TO ENSURE THE FULLNESS AND ACCURACY OF THE FACTS REPORTED AND TO RESPECT THE RIGHTS AND THE DIGNITY OF NATIONS AND OF GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT DISTINCTION AS TO RACE, SEX, NATIONALITY OR CREED AND ENTAILS ALSO THE RESPONSIBILITY AND DUTY OF THE STATES TO USE ALL THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL MEANS TO ENCOURAGE THE MASS MEDIA TO ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AIMS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER SO AS TO MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND TO COMBAT WAR PROPAGANDA, RACIALISM AND APARTHEID,

- 15. CONSIDERING FURTHER THE RIGHT OF COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE THEIR CULTURES AS WELL AS THE DIFFERENCES EXISTING AMONG THOSE CULTURES AS PART OF THE COMMON HERITAGE OF MANKIND.
- 16. NOTING THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF THE MASS MEDIA WHICH CONSTITUTE ONE OF THE KEY ELEMENTS IN MODERN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS, AND PLAY AN EVERINCREASINSG ROLE IN THE INTELLECTUAL LIFE OF SOCIETY AND THE SHAPING OF PUBLIC OPINION,
- 17. PROCLAIMS ON THIS DAY OF 1976 THIS DECLARATION ON FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE USE OF THE MASS MEDIA IN STRENGTHENING PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND IN COMBATING WAR PROPAGANDA, RACISM AND APARTHEID.

ARTICLE I

1. STATES SHOULD ENCOURAGE THE FREER AND WIDER DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION THROUGH THE MASS MEDIA FOR THE PURPOSE OF STRENGHTENING PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND COMBATING WAR PROPAGANDA, RACISM AND APARTHEID, ACTING IN A SPIRIT OF MUTUAL RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF OTHER

STATES, PEOPLES AND INDIVIDUALS, IN FULL ACCORD WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, INCLUDING THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER.

2. SUBJECT TO ADEQUATE CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, THE MASS MEDIA, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, AND THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION, IN PARTICULAR THE

INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCIES, SHOULD ACT IN CONFORMITY WITH THE UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND OF THIS DECLARATION.

ARTICLE II

- 1. STATES SHALL ENCOURAGE AND DEVELOP BOTH MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL EXCHANGES CONCERNING THE USE OF THE MASS MEDIA IN THE FIELDS OF CULTURE, SCIENCE AND EDUCATION ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY OF RIGHTS, MUTUAL ADVANTAGE AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN EACH OTHER'S AFFAIRS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION AND OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS IN FORCE IN EACH COUNTRY, AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THEIR CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS, WITH THE AIM OF DEVELOPING FEELINGS OF FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUAL RESPECT AMONG NATIONS AND WITH A VIEW TO THE SPIRITUAL ENHANCEMENT OF MAN, WITHOUT REGARD FOR RACE, SEX, LANGUAGE OR RELIGION.
- 2. IN ORDER TO ENABLE THE PUBLIC TO ASCERTAIN FACTS AND TO APPRIASE EVENTS OBJECTIVELY, IT IS NECESSARY TO ENCOURAGE CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE FIELD OF COMMUNICATION AND TO IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH JOURNALISTS OF ONE STATE EXERCISE THEIR PROFESSION IN ANOTHER STATE, ON THE BASIS OF RECIPROCITY, BEARING IN MIND THE PRINCIPLES SET FORTH IN THIS DECLARATION.

ARTICLE III

SINCE THE INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION IS FUNDAMENTAL TO THE STRENGTHENING OF PEACE AND (MORE)

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INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING, STATES AND INFORMATION MEDIA HAVE THE RIGHT TO DIFFUSE REPORTS OF NATIONAL EVENTS BEYOND THEIR BORDERS. EXCHANGE BETWEEN COUNTRIESOF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE AIMS, ASPIRATIONS, NEEDS AND CULTURE OF EACH NATION PROMOTES THE BROADENING OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING, THE REDUCTION OF TENSION IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND THE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BY PEACEFUL MEANS.

ARTICLE IV

SPECIAL SUPPORT SHOULD BE GIVEN, ON THE BASIS OF APPROPRIATE AGREEMENTS, TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND FURTHERING OF NATIONAL MASS MEDIA IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND TO THE TRAINING OF THEIR PERSONNEL, SO AS TO CORRECT THE EXISTING DISEQUILIBRIUM IN THE CIRCULATION OF INFORMATION FROM THESE COUNTRIES AND TO MAKE A BALANCED EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION A REALITY FOR THE WHOLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

ARTICLE V

IT IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MASS MEDIA TO AVOID ANY JUSTIFICATION OR ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE EVILS OF WAR, VIOLENCE, APARTHEID AND OTHER FORMS OF NATIONAL, RACIAL OR RELIGIOUS HATRED.

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ARTICLE VI

ANY INCITEMENT TO RACIAL DISCRIMINATION WHICH MAY LEAD TO THREATS OR ACTS OF VIOLENCE OR ENCOURAGEMENT OF SUCH ACTS AGAINST ANY GROUP OF PERSONS BECAUSE OF THEIR RACE, COLOUR OR ETHNIC ORIGIN IS TO BE SHUNNED. FOR THIS PURPOSE, LEGISLATIVE ACTION MIGHT BE ENVISAGED CONSISTENT WITH THE RESPECTIVE

CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEMS OF STATES AND WITH RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AND AGREEMENTS.

ARTICLE VII

SIMILARLY, AS A MEANS OF CONTRIBUTING EFFECTIVELY TO THE STRENGTHENING OF PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING, THE MASS MEDIA HAVE A DUTY TO MAKE WIDELY KNOWN AMONG THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD THE OBJECTIVES OF EQUITY, SOVEREIGN EQUALITY, INTERDEPENDENCE, COMMON INTEREST AND CO-OPERATION AMONG ALL STATES, ON WHICH, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RESLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE FOUNDATIONS OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER ARE BASED.

ARTICLE VIII

THE VOICES OF THOSE STRUGGLING AGAINST APARTHEID AND OTHER FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, COLONIALISM, NEO-COLONIALISM AND FOREIGN OCCUPATION BY AGGRESSION, AND UNABLE TO BE HEARD WITHIN THEIR OWN TERRITORY, SHOULD BE GIVEN EXPRESSION THROUGH THE MASS MEDIA OF OTHER COUNTRIES WITH DUE RESPECT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE HOST COUNTRIES.

ARTICLE IX

IT IS SPECIALLY IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THAT THE MASS MEDIA ARE USED FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CONFORMITY WITH THE DECLARATION ON THE PROMOTION AMONG YOUTH OF THE IDEALS OF PEACE, MUTUAL RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PEOPLES, IT BEING INCUMBENT UPON STATES TO ENCOURAGE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE A SPIRIT OF PEACE, JUSTICE, FREEDOM, MUTUAL RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING.

ARCICLE X

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STATES, INSTITUTIONS OR GROUPS WHICH CONSIDER THAT THE CIRCULATION OF ERRONEOUS NEWS REPORTS HAS SERIOUSLY IMPAIRED THEIR ACTION WITH A VIEW TO THE STRENGTHENING OF PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING, AND THEIR EFFORTS TO COMBAT WAR PROPAGANDA, RACISM AND APARTHEID, SHOULD BE ABLE TO RECTIFY SUCH NEWS REPORTS THROUGH THE MASS MEDIA.

ARTICLE XI

IT IS THE DUTY OF PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FIELD OF MASS COMMUNICATION TO DEFINE AND PROMOTE STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS ON A NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL AND TO SUPPORT THEIR MEMBERS IN THE RESPONSIBLE EXERCISE OF THEIR PROFESSION.

ARTICLE XII

STATES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTIVITIES IN THE INTERNATIONAL SPHERE OF ALL MASS MEDIA UNDER THEIR JURISDICTION.

ARTICLE XIII

THE PRINCIPLES OF THIS DECLARATION ON FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE USE OF THE MASS MEDIA IN STRENGTHENING PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND IN COMBATING WAR PROPAGANDA, RACISM AND APARTHEID SHALL BE APPLIED WITH DUE REGARD FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS. END QUOTE. GAMMON

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